



The SonLight Beacon

...the power is on

Spring 2008

Light shared despite rain & pain

Despite rain, mud and a couple minor injuries, the SonLight Power June team—a family affair—had lots of fun while accomplishing three installs and three Fiestas on schedule and without any major problems.

Leo Rader and Bob Wade joined the Sauer family (Bart, Penny, Rachel, Coleen, Kara) and the Snyders (David, Claire, Elizabeth, Rebecca) to form the team. We were joined by Mauricio Moncada, Manny Chang and Kevin Sasson along with translators Paula Scott, Ivonne Villeda and Andrea Bustillo from Honduras.

At the first school, Dionisio de Herrera in the village of El Caracol, Leo Rader and Allen worked through technical problems with the solar panels. This delayed the pole raising just enough so the team had to wait out the rain.

After the rain slowed down the pole went up quickly. However, the big rain had soaked the dirt roads. While Pastor Caesar researched another exit route, the SLP crew completed maintenance training and presented an OLPC

(One Laptop per Child) computer in honor of the 50th SLP install.

Caracol teacher, Raquel Amparo Ponce, expressed the gratefulness of the community.

Before departing, we discovered



Photos: Above, SLP team survives rain & pain. Below, Bart gets help with drilling. Below left, Raquel Ponce accepts computer. Bottom left, stuck truck. Bottom right, kids cheer at El Trapiche. Below right, kids watch at Ortiz. Below right, Dave mounts control panel. Right, waste basket.



we needed to move the control panel as it was directly under a leak in the roof. Another problem solved!

Pastor Caesar sent word that help was needed to dig one of the pickup trucks out of the mud. By the time the team reached the hotel, we had excavated three trucks. Exhausted, wet and feeling like drowned rats,

we skipped church with the blessings of Pastor David.

We were up even earlier the next day for Escuela Sergio Ruben Ortiz in El Trapiche. Both the Fiesta and the install progressed rapidly until we tested the inverter—which blew the breaker repeatedly.

Allen soon concluded the inverter was faulty; we would need to replace it the next day. While he explained to the student body & community that the Love of Jesus was the reason for our visit, Leo disassembled the inverter and discovered the flaw, which he quickly repaired. Allen finished the message and was about to say we'd return to replace the defective equipment when Leo quietly pointed out that the inverter was working.

We soon turned on the lights—to joyful cheers from both cultures.

Light rain started during our ride back to the hotel. Along with members of Pastor David's and Pastor Caesar's churches, we celebrated the day with a big dinner. We sang simple songs simultaneously in both languages—and then sang songs in alternating languages.

The team set a SLP install record the third day at Miguel Paz Barahona in Cañanini. From arrival to lights on was 3:31—with Leo running the install.

We soon discovered that the entire area was rock; we were unable to dig a hole deep enough for the pole. But, God's people are creative—A wastebasket and a little ingenuity eliminated the problem (see photo).



The Fiesta crew also did an excellent job. In addition to the 75 expected students, 27 neighborhood teens showed up. Paula & Ivonne took the teens aside, taught songs and shared testimonies. The teens joined in the salvation necklace craft—the teacher, Marlon, commented to the translators that things went better than expected, but he

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Haiti gets double dip

Allen's annual trip to Haiti in 08 morphed into two trips. He encountered unanticipated customs difficulties during the first trip in late February. The second trip was delayed when political unrest in the country prompted Allen's hosts to recommend postponement for safety reasons.



Sandwiched between the two Haiti trips, Allen traveled to California to train a team

from Saddleback Church in L.A. to install a solar system in a Rwandan church. Allen's efforts paid off – the Saddleback team's trip was a complete success.

All three trips were productive. Jimmy Durham (House of Bread - Montroius) planned a solar workshop in Port au Prince. More than 30 missionaries and native Haitians came to learn what solar can mean for their ministry. Twenty six of those who came filled out forms requesting help. Our annual trips to Haiti will continue for many years!

Allen completed surveys of several sites during the two weeks and also trained Donald Lupin, an employee of Becky Karns (Karns' Kids), to be an "Allen Assistant". Donald will be assisting Allen in future SonLight Haiti installs.

House of Faith is a small orphanage in Bon Repose, a "suburb" of Port au Prince on the east side. The solar power system runs a refrigerator and provides the orphanage with electricity without running the generator. Due to high fuel costs, the orphanage does

not use the generator very much. Now they can use lights when needed, run communication devices and even watch TV on occasion (the entire community gathers to watch soccer games).

At House of Bread, we installed three new panels and re-wired the system to increase efficiency – allowing Jim to reduce generator time even more. HOB is almost to the point of becoming self sufficient. Highly efficient refrigeration and a solar water pump are future upgrades toward complete energy independence. Becky Karns already has solar power, but was still running the generator long hours to power the cyber café and snack bar—sources of income for the ministry. An upgrade of equipment and the addition of high efficiency refrigeration greatly reduced generator time. Laptop computers add efficiency. Power for a water pump remains a concern.

During the first trip, Allen visited Cap Haitian and Family Life Outreach ministry, run by Lucy & Hudson Hess. 30-year vets of OMI, the Hesses are FLO in 1995. Hudson is helping Haitians learn to farm and irrigate their land. A solar water pumping project is slated for the future.

Al also visited Port de Pax – where SonLight Ministries (no relation to SLP) actively runs a school provides staff for a seminary. Generators continuously supply electricity to the school and surrounding neighbors. As the ministry grows, Roger Alexander hopes to add solar and wind power to decrease generator run time.

Photos: Left, Jimmy Durham @ HOB. Top Right, Donald Lupin works at HOF. Below, Allen & kids @ HOF. Below right, Brian, of Rwanda team, instructs Nicole, Erica, & Setella on nuts & bolts.



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was eating most of a fish head. The trip was fun because we got to do fun stuff with the kids. I think God has blessed us having us go on the mission." (Visit the blog at www.sonlightpower.org)



team member a necklace. Most of the Cincinnati kids enjoyed interacting with their Honduran counterparts.

"This was an amazing trip! I don't think I have ever been so muddy, tired, or blessed before on a mission trip," Rachel Sauer said on the SLP blog. "The kids and teachers were so glad that we were there, and it was so fun to serve them."



Also on the blog, Rebecca Snyder said, "The trip was a good learning experience. I liked riding in the back of the truck and it was fun climbing the pole to untie the rope. I got muddy and wet but I still had a good time."

Rebecca's sister, Elizabeth, even liked parts of the trip others didn't appreciate. "The trip was a fun experience. One of my favorite parts

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shouldn't be surprised because Christians don't do anything of poor quality.

As we did the presentations, the teacher at Cañanini surprised us. Girls in princess regalia gave each



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